

and given back to these mothers their children, but we wish that we might give them the knowledge that would enable them to care for and rear their little ones. They have no idea of any special diet for a child. It is nursed till it is two years old or longer, but in the meanwhile as soon as it shows any inclination for other food it is allowed everything. Even green pomegranates, watermelons, muskmelons, baked melon seeds and raw carrots. The wonder is not that so many die but that so many live.

So much for their ailing bodies. How about their poor sick souls, so dark with lives so full of jealousy, envy and strife! Of the peace of God they know not nor understand what it is. How can we explain it to them? How can we raise the curtain and let the light shine in? We cannot, but the Holy Spirit can, and that is His work. Ours to sow the seed, just as much of it, and as constantly as we can, and in the best way we can, not stopping to select the best places for sowing, but everywhere and all the time, for we know not whither shall prosper this, or that. Make us faithful, oh Lord, in Thy work, and let not their physical ills, sad as they are, make us forget their greater soul sickness.

EMMA H. WORRALL.

On the Way Out.



REV. G. D.
VAN PEURSEM.

We looked forward with great longing and anticipation to September 10th, the day we were to sail for Arabia. Our party consisted of Dr. and Mrs. Zwemer, with their children Amy and Mary; Rev. and Mrs. Barny, with Fred and Esther; Miss Kellien, Miss Spaeth, and myself.

I am sure that I express the sentiment of the entire group when I say that the presence of the many friends at the boat made the parting much harder, although a great deal more pleasant. Each member of the party had his own

particular friends who came to wish him Godspeed, but there were some who were the friends of all. We were especially glad to get a last word from our Secretary, Dr. Chamberlain, and from Dr. Amerman and Mr. Olcott. Personally I wish to thank the people who came from Passaic and Somerville for the occasion.

Through the kind efforts of Mr. Olcott we were able to get our staterooms amidships, and this being the fall of the year when but few passengers go East, we had room enough and to spare. Our accommodations throughout the trip were quite satisfactory.

We certainly found that the Lord is Master also of the waves. The prayers of our friends for a quiet sea were answered, and with the exception of a few days, we had good weather during the entire voyage. It seemed impossible that the ocean could be so calm, almost without a ripple, for so long a time. In consequence of the pleasant weather and the smooth seas, the health of all the party was good.

It is very interesting to note the different types of people one meets on a sea voyage. On our boat, the *Koenig Albert*, from New York to Naples, there were among the steerage passengers many poor Italians who had failed to get rich in America and were returning to their native land. We were very fortunate in having with us, besides several people who were going East to study art and music, a party of missionaries of the United Presbyterian Church, and a number of



THE "KOENIG ALBERT."

professors on their way to the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut. It can readily be seen that parties of such like sympathies would prove congenial. We had our games together, our concerts and our devotions. We who were Dutch gladly joined with the United Presbyterians in singing Psalms. We gathered daily in the writing-room for prayer and praise. Among those of the party were Dr. and Mrs. Stewart, veteran missionaries in India; Dr. and Mrs. Carhart, on their way to Beirut, Syria, and Professor and Mrs. Goodspeed, of Chicago University, coming to the Orient for study in the Semitics. In all our party consisted of about forty people. The monotony of an ocean trip is lost when one travels with a happy company of missionaries.

Our first landing place was Gibraltar, where our boat lay at anchor for a few hours, and where we had our first opportunity to send letters home, for the first time after leaving America. Here, we who

were new to this part of the world, looked with amazement at the prodigious rocks, the narrow streets and the native shops. The associations that are brought to mind by the Rock on the one hand and the Coast of Africa on the other fill one with awe, especially when one sees it for the first time.

Our voyage was indeed a pleasant one—not merely because of the favorable weather, but because it was broken by landing at different places,—Naples, Alexandria, Cairo, and Bombay. Before I tell of our experience at these places, let me mention something that took place in the Mediterranean which has direct bearing on the Arabian Mission. This was a direct result of an informal talk which Dr. Zwemer was invited to give on Arabia and Missions among Moslems. In the course of his address he named the strategic points of attack against Islam, in Arabia. As one of these he mentioned Jiddah, through which nearly all pilgrims to Mecca must pass who come from Africa and Arabia, suggesting the possibility of building some kind of lodging house or hotel to accommodate these pilgrims, and in that way reach them with Christianity. This idea seemed so attractive to some that the next morning one person pledged \$100, for the erection of such a building. This resulted in the drawing up of a plan by a committee, and every one on board was asked to contribute towards the new movement. Before we arrived at Naples nearly \$300 had been pledged. We felt that our voyage so far had been blessed, not only in seeing new plans proposed, but actually seeing them carried out. Undoubtedly something definite will be done as a result of this new interest. Either the Arabian Mission will carry it further alone, or will seek the co-operation of the Missions in Western Arabia. It is certainly worth considering that at Jiddah we might come in contact with 50,000 pilgrims yearly on their way to Mecca.

Our voyage from Naples to Alexandria took four days on a German steamer, the Schleswig. The passengers on this boat were a heterogeneous crowd, of different languages, color, and religions. Some one remarked that no less than twenty languages were spoken on board.

We new missionaries were very fortunate in going with the party to Egypt, where Dr. Zwemer was to speak at a Conference of the United Presbyterian Mission in Cairo. In Alexandria we were entertained at Fairhaven, a summer home for missionaries, where Miss Van Sommer had kindly made provision for our party. I shall never forget our visit to Egypt. It seems to me that it pays for one just coming out as a missionary to take this extra trip, as it is full of interest and valuable experience. In both Alexandria we saw what excellent work the United Presbyterian Church is doing along educa-

tional lines. In Alexandria they had just completed a girls' school to accommodate several hundred pupils. In their school they offer a good course in commercial law for the boys and domestic science for the girls. In Cairo we were entertained by the American missionaries, whose hospitality will not soon be forgotten.

In five days one can get only a glimpse of the real Cairo and of what takes place in that Moslem metropolis. On the one hand, we rejoiced with the members of the American Mission in the completion of their new girls' college, while on the other, we were saddened by the many mosques and minarets all through the city. We found it truly a Moslem country; on the day we left Egypt the Museum and the stores were closed because of the famous feast after Ramadhan, the Moslem fast month. When one climbs the citadel in Cairo to get a birds-eye view of the city with its seething population, he cannot but be impressed by the Moslem predominance.

Our time for departure came all too soon, and on October 4th we left Cairo for Port Said. Our voyage through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea was more uncomfortable than it would have been later in the season. The heat was intense, and the boat was crowded because of the many English people who were going to India. But we managed to be fairly comfortable by not allowing the sun to strike us by day, and sleeping on deck at night.

At Aden we changed for the last boat, a P. & O. for Bombay. We were anxious to see the Arabs in Aden, but our boat anchored after midnight, and we left before daybreak for India.

On October 14th our party arrived in Bombay after a delightful voyage on the Indian Ocean. Our stay in that interesting city was not long, and after visiting some important places and transacting necessary business, three of us left for Arabia, while Dr. Zwemer and Mr. Barny with their families remained in Bombay for another week.

The boat up the Persian Gulf was all too slow, as our anxiety grew the nearer we approached Arabia. However, the time was not entirely lost as we saw something of Arab life even on the boat. We arrived in Muscat on October 24th, and were delighted to see Dr. Cantine who came to meet us. Thus ended our journey to Arabia, and our hearts are full of gratitude to Him who kept us all safely and brought us to the land of our adoption.

G. D. VAN PEURSEM.

